

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 163 without my signature.

I could have supported a bill that would simply revise the definition of hair threading to also include the possible incidental trimming of eyebrow hair.

I am concerned with provisions in this bill that create two separate applications for barbering and cosmetology resulting in a bifurcated examination and licensing process, which would require additional costs and workload to the Board, as well as increased costs, steps and/or time for applicants to get their California licenses. The two-step provisions created in this measure could prevent students who have worked diligently to complete their course work and pass the examination from beginning their careers immediately. The Board has offered same-day licensing to their applicants for several years and this measure could eliminate same-day licenses.

Therefore, I am directing my Secretary for State and Consumer Services Agency to examine potential options for establishing a process to accommodate those who may not want to ultimately obtain a license in California. This process should only be implemented if it does not materially impact the licensure processing time, or significantly increase the fees for California applicants.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger